

REMARKS

The Final Office Action mailed May 25, 2005 and references cited therein have been reviewed. Applicants have, by this amendment, canceled claims 2-4 and 27-30 and amended claims 1, 5, 26 and 31.

Claims 1-23 and 26-45 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over anyone of Gustafson, Colella, Brofft, or Bankstahl in view of either Martin or Lohse. Claims 24, 25, 46 and 47 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gustafson, Colella, Brofft or Bankstahl in view of either Martin or Lohse and further in view of Di Novo.

Claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of dependent claims 2 and 3 and a part of dependent claim 4. Specifically, claim 1 requires the electric air compressor at least partially mounted in said housing to be at least partially powered by the current generated by the electric current generator when electrically connected to the electric current generator during the operation of the engine and/or to be at least partially powered by a power source external to the integrated welder. Claim 1 also requires an electric plug, which is electrically connected to the electric air compressor, to be designed to be detachably connectable to a power source external to the integrated welder. Claim 1 further requires an electric circuit that controls power to the air compressor between the electric current generator and the power source external to the integrated welder. Claim 26 was amended to include similar limitations.

None of the cited references of record disclose, teach or suggest a welder that includes an air compressor located at least partially in the welder housing wherein the air compressor is an electric air compressor that can be electrically powered by the electric generator of the welder and/or by a power source external to the welder.

Di Novo is absent any disclosure, teaching or suggestion with regard to an air compressor integrated with a welder. Di Novo was only cited by the Examiner as disclosing a portable housing for a welder that includes wheels.

Gustafson discloses an air compressor and generator driven by a single combustion engine. (Pg. 1, lns. 62-68; Pg. 1, ln.110 - Pg. 2, ln. 18; Pg. 3, lns. 120-124). The air compressor is not an electric air compressor. The air compressor is not powered by a power source external to the welder. Gustason only discloses a belt driven air compressor that is only powered by the combustion engine. Colella, like Gustason, discloses a belt drive air compressor that is only powered by the combustion engine. (Col. 2, lns. 9-13, 31-39; Col. 1, lns. 25-48). Bankstahl, like Gustason and Colella, discloses a belt drive air compressor that is only powered by the combustion engine. (Col. 1, lns. 5-9, 53-65; Col. 2, lns. 9-13; Col. 4, lns. 36-48; Col. 4, ln. 63 - Col. 5, ln. 4; Col. 6, lns. 26-44, 56-62). Applicants submit that Bankstahl, Gustason and Colella are non-analogous art to the present invention since such references only teach the use of belt driven air compressors. Alternatively, these three references teach away from the present invention with regard to the use of an electric powered air compressor, thus cannot be used in combination with other references to support an obviousness rejection of any of the claims pending in the present invention.

Brofft discloses an electrically powered air compressor powered only by an alternator which is in turn powered by a combustion engine. (Col. 4, lns. 29-36; Col. 6, lns. 52-60). Brofft is absent any disclosure, teaching or suggestion that the air compressor can be at least partially powered by the current generated by the electric current generator when electrically connected to the electric current generator during the operation of the engine and/or to be at least partially powered by a power source external to the integrated welder. Brofft is also absent any disclosure, teaching or suggestion of the use of an electric plug which is electrically connected to the electric air compressor

and which is also designed to be detachably connectable to a power source external to the integrated welder. Brofft is further absent any disclosure, teaching or suggestion of the use of an electric circuit that controls power to the air compressor between the electric current generator and the power source external to the integrated welder.

Martin and Lohse were cited by the Examiner as providing teachings to one skilled in the art to overcome the deficiencies of the teachings of Bankstahl, Gustason, Colella and Brofft with regard to the use of an electric plug that is detachably connectable to an air compressor. Lohse is directed to an energy supply unit for freight containers. Martin is directed to a transportable refrigeration unit. Applicants submit that two references are non-analogous art with regard to the art of welding. Indeed, Applicants submit that Martin and Lohse are even non-analogous art with respect to one another. Energy supply units for freight containers and refrigerator units have nothing to do with the art of welding. The Examiner has not referred to any section in Bankstahl, Gustason, Colella and Brofft or in Martin and Lohse that would provide motivation to one skilled in the art of welding to combine the teachings in Martin and/or Lohse with any teachings in Bankstahl, Gustason, Colella and/or Brofft to make obvious any of the claims pending in the present invention. As stated above, Bankstahl, Gustason and Colella do not even disclose the use of an electric air compressor, thus such teachings are further distinguished from the invention defined in the claims of the present invention. Applicants submit that Martin and Lohse cannot be used in combination with any of the art of record to support a rejection of any of the pending claims under 35 U.S.C. §103.

With regard to the specific teachings of Martin, Martin discloses a combustion engine 1 that drives both the generator and compressor by use of a clutch. (Col. 2, lns. 49-62). As such, the compressor 3 is not an electric compressor. When the combustion motor is shut down, the motor is mechanically disconnected from the compressor. (Col. 3, lns. 53-56). When an external power

source is used, the external power is used to power an induction motor 4 which is then used to drive the compressor unit. (Col. 3, ln. 56 - Col. 4, ln. 4). as such, Martin does not disclose, teach or suggest the use of an electrically powered compressor, much less an electrically powered air compressor for use in a welder. As such, the teachings in Martin cannot be used to support an obviousness rejection of any of the pending claims.

With regard to the specific teachings of Lohse, Lohse discloses an energy source for a freight container that can be detachably connected to the freight container. (Col. 1, lns. 32-37, 48-58). Lohse is absent any disclosure with regard to an electric powered compressor, much less an electric powered air compressor. Lohse is also absent any disclosure with regard to the use of a power source other than the power generated by the engine driven generator. As such, the teachings in Lohse cannot be used to support an obviousness rejection of any of the pending claims.

Applicants submit that the claims currently pending in the above-identified patent application are not anticipated or made obvious by the cited art of record. Accordingly, a notice of allowance is solicited for the pending claims.

Respectfully submitted,
FAY, SHARPE, FAGAN, MINNICH & McKEE

By: 

BRIAN E. TURUNG
Reg. No. 35,394
1100 Superior Avenue, 7th Floor
Cleveland, Ohio 44114-2579
Telephone: (216) 861-5582
Facsimile: (216) 241-1666